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CARP IN FOCUS...

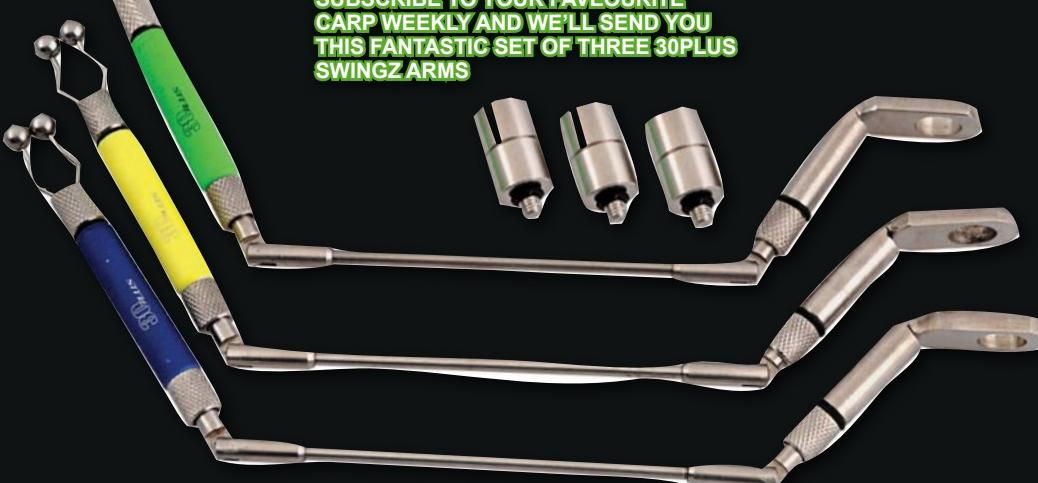


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Post to: Newsdesk, Carp Fishing News Ltd., Newport, East Yorkshire, HU15 2QG.



COVER STAR...



Joe Morgan with the elusive and much-sought-after Wood Common from Norfolk's Spitfire Pool at a new personal best weight of 48½lb

IN CARP-TALK THIS WEEK

- ✓ SEVENTY SEVEN YEAR OLD GEORGE SCARLIOLI LANDS 56½LB COMMON FROM ESSEX SYNDICATE WATER
- ✓ SEVENTY FIVE YEAR OLD DEREK ETHERINGTON BANKS 51LB 2OZ MIRROR FROM ESSEX SYNDICATE
- ✓ KEVIN OLIVER IS THE LATEST ANGLER TO LAND THE BIG GIRL FROM ELPHICKS AT 56½LB

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PLUS... ALL THE LATEST CATCHES AND NEWS FROM HOME AND ABROAD

Carp-Talk is a member of
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NEWSROUND-UP

Mainline pair win TFG Carp Masters

Wayne Mansford capped off a fantastic year on the match circuit by winning a share of £10,000 at a multi-national event in France.

Wayne and his partner, Peter Leakey, representing Mainline, amassed a total of 831lb 2oz to claim victory at the TFG Carp Masters at Fishabil near Brittany, finishing ahead of Martel and White on 704lb 1oz and Portier and Herault on 642lb. More than 4000lb of carp were caught during the course of the competition, with 24 fish weighing more than 30lb.

The victory was the icing on the cake of a memorable year for Wayne, which has seen him finish third in the Southern Carp Cup, reach the finals of the British Carp Angling Championships and Midlands Carp Cup, and the semi-finals of the UK Carp Cup.



CarpFishing4Forces

A Facebook page has been created in an effort to support the many anglers serving in the Armed Forces. Many venues, tackle shops and bait firms have demonstrated their support for the guys and girls in the Forces, but this is the first time there has been a dedicated place to collate all the organisations' offers in one place.

The likes of Richworth Linear Fisheries, Linch Hill Fishery and Airfield Lakes have already joined the group and are offering discounts to all Armed Forces personnel. Anybody else visiting to show support through the means of the group can do so by emailing Stuart Lennox at lennoxuk@yahoo.co.uk.

Winter tickets at Penns Hall

The Penns Hall syndicate in the Midlands has announced that it will be running its usual winter tickets. There are 10 tickets available at a cost of £130 and will run between 1st November and 31st March 2014. Penns has a stock of around 300 carp, including a good head of twenties and many back-up doubles. Anybody interested in purchasing a ticket should contact Baz Griffiths on 07786 450120.

Naseby Reservoir open day

Torrential downpours and high winds couldn't stop the Naseby Reservoir open day from being a huge success. The anglers who braved the elements shared 14 fish between them from ranges of up to 160 yards, having put the tips they had learnt from casting experts, Mark Hutchinson and Andy Smith, to good use. Andy James of Infusion Baits was also in attendance to show off the products in the company's range, including the yet-to-be released Snatch bait, which proved very popular. Organiser, Mike Madeley, would like to thank everyone who attended and helped make the event a huge success – despite the weather.



Another Team Carp-Talk success story

Huge congratulations to Team Carp-Talk's Kev Grout for winning the UK Carp Cup and Ricky Moody for finishing third.

It has been another fantastic year for Team Carp-Talk, topped by Kev's victory at Richworth Linear Fisheries' Oxlease Lake, where he finished on eight fish for 165lb 11oz, beating James Anderson into second on 148lb 10oz and Ricky into third on 77lb 5oz.

Kev told Carp-Talk: "What an unbelievable experience it was to finally win a British championship after eight years of trying. It turned out to be a perfect final for me; not only did I successfully compete against some of the most talented competition carp anglers in the UK, I also had the pleasure of catching some cracking Linear Fisheries carp. It was an incredible weekend I will never forget. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my sponsors, Carp-Talk, CC Moore and Fox, for the support they have offered me and for believing in my angling ability in the first instance. I would also like to thank my dedicated runner and good friend, Luke Church, for his hard work, motivation and drive towards my success. I could not be more grateful and I can quite comfortably say I could not have done it without their generosity and support. Bring on the championships in 2014!"



Homersfield Lake open to non-members

For the first time in its illustrious history, one of the Waveney Valley's most talked-about carp fisheries has been made available to non-members. Homersfield Lake on the Norfolk/Suffolk border, owned by Norman Symonds and brought to public attention through John Wilson's Go Fishing and Dream Fishing television programmes, can now be fished by two non-members when renting out the Kingfisher Lodge. The two anglers will be able to target the Lake's carp, which go to more than 50lb, from dedicated swims.

For more information about prices, fishing and terms and conditions, visit the www.homersfieldlake.com website and click on the heading 'Kingfisher Lodge'. Otherwise, contact Martin Symonds on 07900 807272 or send an email to info@homersfieldlake.com.

John Wilson's latest book, One Man's Passion for Carp, which tells the story of Norman, one of the unsung heroes of carp fishing, can be bought for £18.99 from the www.gifts4anglers.com website.

THAT WAS THE WEEK THAT WAS

Five years ago this week – issue 736

The carp world was rocked when The Gravier's Scarred Mirror broke the 90lb mark after being landed at 91lb by Andre Komornicki. Bluebell's Swan Lake produced a new complex record when Matthew Ridley banked The Creature at a whopping 64lb 2oz. Craig Banks set a new personal best with the capture of a 44lb 2oz common during a stint on Bundy's Pit, while Ian Jarrold had his third forty from St Ives when he bagged a 45lb mirror from the Shallow Lagoon. Tim Wagner and Sean Leverett were in 'The Carp Catchers' Diary', while Julian Cundiff talked about midweek overnighters.



10 years ago this week – issue 480

The main news was the capture of a world-record common from Lake Raduta, Romania, weighing a massive 75lb 6oz, caught by Austrian Erich Unger. John Claridge had his fourth forty from the Yateley complex when he slipped his net under The Big Orange from the Car Park Lake at 45lb. A four-day stint on a South West syndicate produced a 48½lb mirror known as Smirk for Paul Williams of Bristol. The big Woldview common called Alice was caught at more than 40lb for the first time when it slipped up to Colin Edwards, who also had Floppy Tail at 45lb 2oz.



15 years ago this week – issue 224

Controversy surrounded the British record when the Angling Times sent the scales used to weigh Mary, caught by Kevin Cummings, to four different Weights & Measures offices and got four different results! In the same issue, it was also reported that Dave Mallin caught Mary at 55½lb, his fifth carp from the demanding Wraysbury One venue. The Carp Society's Horseshoe Lake produced a new lake record in the shape of a 36¼lb mirror, caught by Simon Feeley. Mike Young bagged the first-ever 35lb-plus fish from Cutt Mill when he banked a 36lb 2oz mirror during an overnight session.



THIS WEEK'S ISSUE

Be one of the first to get your hands on it!

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IN CARP-TALK THIS WEEK

SEVENTY SEVEN YEAR OLD GEORGE SCARLIOLI LANDS 56½LB COMMON FROM ESSEX SYNDICATE WATER

SEVENTY FIVE YEAR OLD DEREK ETHERINGTON BANKS 51LB 20Z MIRROR FROM ESSEX SYNDICATE

KEVIN OLIVER IS THE LATEST ANGLER TO LAND THE BIG GIRL FROM ELPHICKS AT 56½LB

ACTON BURNELL LOWER LAKE PRODUCES 45LB 100Z MIRROR FOR SCOT RODGERS

DEAN GLADDISH DESCRIBES A SUCCESSFUL YEAR ON AN OLD KENT VENUE



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NEWSROUND-UP

Product of the Week

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These Pop-Up Sticks from Solar are the ultimate, versatile pop-up hookbaits. Available in two time-honoured flavours, Pineapple-and-N-Butyric and Squid & Octopus, these sticks are made from the same ultra-buoyant, needle friendly recipe as Solar's Perfect Pop-Ups. Each tub contains 12 pop-up Sticks measuring 11mm

x 75mm; that's three Sticks in each of the four hi-viz colours, fluoro pink, white, orange and yellow. With all of the Sticks in each tub being the same flavour, it gives you a range of hi-viz



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colour choices in your chosen flavour to suit any situation or presentation. Solar will be adding a black-coloured Stick in the near future to give even more options.

These Sticks are designed to be trimmed to any size from a wafer-thin 11mm diameter disc to a super long stick, giving you the perfect hookbait no matter what the situation. You can even create a stack of various colours to give a unique alternative hookbait.

While they lend themselves perfectly to all sorts of pop-up presentations, from chod rigs to snowman setups, Solar's Pop-Up Sticks have become most popular for zig rig fishing.

Just like all of the Solar Pop-Ups, these come with a free Pot Shot of matching glug, so that you can boost the pulling power of your baits if you so wish. For one tub of buoyant baits that covers all eventualities, look no further.

All of the Solar Pop-Up Sticks are available at your local Solar stockist and online at Solar Tackle's official online store www.solar24-7.co.uk.

Check out this short video from Myles Gascoyne explaining the Pop-Up Sticks on Solar's You Tube channel.



The Crafty Carping website features a large banner image of a carp in the water. The main navigation menu includes 'Help For Newbs', 'Home', 'Forum', 'Gallery', 'Dimensions', 'Mating Lists', 'Diags', 'What's New?', 'Records', 'Moon', 'Link Directory', and 'Advanced Search'. Below the menu, there's a 'WELCOME TO CRAFTYCARPING' section with a brief introduction and a 'Recent Articles' sidebar. The central content area shows a 'Create Article' form and a 'Recent Blog Posts' section.

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NEWS roundup

All the latest news from our lakes...

carp-france.com

The fishing holiday specialists

Eagle Lake & Peter's Pool....

The week 3/8/2013 - 10/8/2013 was a great one for two of our regular anglers, Peter and Mark.

Concentrating on Eagle, but also putting the odd rod into Peter's Pool just a few yards away from Eagle, the pair notched up a total of 1,266lb of carp and cats during their stay!

Peter (who didn't fish any all nights preferring to sleep in the cabin) landed 22 mirrors nearly all twenties, with three at 30lb 13oz, 31lb and 36lb 5oz - a new pb - along with four commons to 18lb 11oz. He also had five cats to 24lbs.

Mark banked 13 mirrors, mainly twenties, with three at 28lb 8oz, 29lb 12oz and a new pb at 36lb 15oz. He also had a dozen cats to 25lb 9oz.

Total weights were: Peter 653lb 10oz, Mark 613lb 12oz Great angling, well done guys!

For more visit <http://www.carp-france.com/Venue.aspx/EaglelakePetersPool>



A Dream Week on Eagle Lake....

Andy Taberner's personal best carp before arriving on 10th August was a scraper twenty and he had never seen, let alone caught, a Wels' catfish.

Both of those stats was to quickly change in what was to become a Dream Week's fishing for the lad from Wigan on Eagle Lake!

His first fish was a rod wrenching 51lb Wels catfish! He followed that up with a superb 45lb cat along with two double figure kittens of 17lb and 11lb.

His first mirror carp smashed his previous pb and weighed in at 22lb, but that was not to last long, with two 25's, another at 27lb, then 28lb then on his last cast a great new pb mirror of 41lb 8ozs!

He has banked a new common carp pb, first with a 21lb fish, then one of 22lbs.

Accompanying Andy was complex regular Kris, who also had a good week, banking a new pb mirror of 30lb plus in his twelve fish catch.

For more visit <http://www.carp-france.com/Venue.aspx/EaglelakePetersPool>

Steady Fishing at Etang Marolles....

11 fish banked and 3 lost between two anglers during week 3-10 August. Both broke their PB's so happy days. 5 x 20's, 4 x 30's & 2 x 35+. Fish of the week goes to Lee at 37.12lb. "Great weeks fishing, thanks for all your help and advice Dave. Fantastic venue, food excellent. Look forward to visiting again". Ryan & Lee

For more visit.. <http://www.carp-france.com/Venue.aspx/EtangMarolles>



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ANY OF OUR VENUES TEL 01455 220390

Birch Pool Retreat - No. 4 makes a rare appearance!

We have waited for over a year to see this stunning Common, it is the 4th 50lb+ Common in Birch Pool Retreat and was captured by our first Polish guests at 53lbs. They also smashed their PB's with a 40lb Mirror and a 45lb Mirror.

<http://www.carp-france.com/Venue.aspx/BirchPoolRetreat>



70lb'er out on Vallee Lake 1 to Dave Prowse...

Dave Prowse banked a fish of his life with this HUGE 70LB+ Mirror! Possibly heavier as his scales bottomed out!

Dave had the fish on Vallee Lake 1 together with another Monster of a Mirror at 59lb together with 4 x 40lb+ Carp & 4 x 30's.

Dave said "absolutely unbelievable session, top fish & venue. Great week! thanks Mark & Nathalie"

for more visit <http://www.carp-france.com/Venue.aspx/ValleeLake1>



Ricky Bates, the winner of a Holiday to Lake Juvanze, a prize we put up for 'Casting 4 Cancer' in 2012, finally got to experience the Holiday and took along 3 of his mates.

Result: 1 x 50 (50lb 8oz), 1 x 40 (48lb), 9 x 30s, 2 x 20s, 1 double

Well done Ricky, so pleased you enjoyed your prize.



Jon Haldane's party banked some stunners at Lac de Laneuville...

Have a look at: <http://www.carp-france.com/ViewFeedback.aspx/LacdeLaneuville#2241>

Etang Tissier.... LAKE RECORD CAT LANDED

Lake record catfish 58lb 10oz, Mark also landed on the same day (28th aug 2013) 39lb cat, 44lb cat, 52lb cat and 5 carp 22lb to 27lb good fishing!

Great fishing!
Well done Mark!



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Getting sensitive

JAMES ARMSTRONG REVEALS A NEAT RUNNING RIG SYSTEM THAT IS PERFECT FOR OUT-FOXING FINICKY CARP.



GETTING SENSITIVE



If you have ever watched carp feeding at close quarters, you will have noticed that they have the ability to eject a rig with ease. Believe it or not, they can use the weight of the lead to sling your rig away from the spot without so much as a bleep on your alarm. The *Underwater* series of films showed this right in front of the cameras as those canny Welly carp made a

mockery of Danny Fairbrass's lead system. This happens everywhere we go – fact!

This year, I have been using a rowing boat to position my rigs on the bottom, just lowering them in through my fingers. Through the Aquascope, I have witnessed some amazing sights when I have checked my spots in the morning after a biteless night. On more than one occasion I have seen my trusty



HOW TO TIE THE FREE-RUNNING LEAD SYSTEM



You will require some 20lb IQ2 fluorocarbon, an Anti Tangle Sleeve, a size 8 Ring Swivel and an inline Tournament Casting lead



Remove a few feet of IQ2 to use as a leader



Remove the insert from the inline lead



Tie the leader to the main line and then thread the leader through the lead



Follow this with an Anti Tangle Sleeve



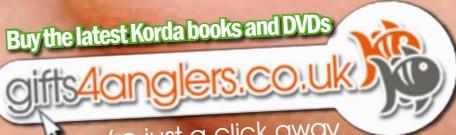
Tie on a size 8 Ring Swivel



Moisten the Swivel with saliva and push the Sleeve over the top



The lead will sit over the top and pull free with ease



we're just a click away

semi-fixed inline rig tossed into the light silkweed without so much as a lift on the bobbin. The culprit? Carp.

It is circumstances such as this that led me to a running rig presentation on clear, weed-free waters. Having seen Joe Morgan, who I believe developed it, put this running inline rig through its paces, I thought it was only polite that I copied it. I don't mind admitting that

I use this rig quite a lot now. It's awesome in the right circumstance, which is a clear lake bed with little or no weed.

Running rigs are the most sensitive rigs available. Bites and ejections are immediately registered on the bobbin. They're also very hard to eject. As soon as a carp picks up the hookbait and moves off, it has no resistance against which to shake the hook

free. It will happily swim off until it hits the force of the rod tip. Fishing in conjunction with a semi-slack bobbin you will receive the best indication possible. This is down to the way that the line runs freely through the lead system.

To tie the rig you will require an inline tournament lead, an Anti Tangle Sleeve and a size 8 Ring Swivel. Remove the plastic insert from the lead and then slide it on to

the main line. (I like to use a fluorocarbon leader, but leader knot *must* be small enough for the lead to pass over.) I place the Anti Tangle Sleeve on to the line and then tie on the Ring Swivel. I moisten the swivel and then push the sleeve snugly over the top of the Ring Swivel. The inline lead will gently rest on the sleeve and pull free in the event of a take. This results in a free-running system!

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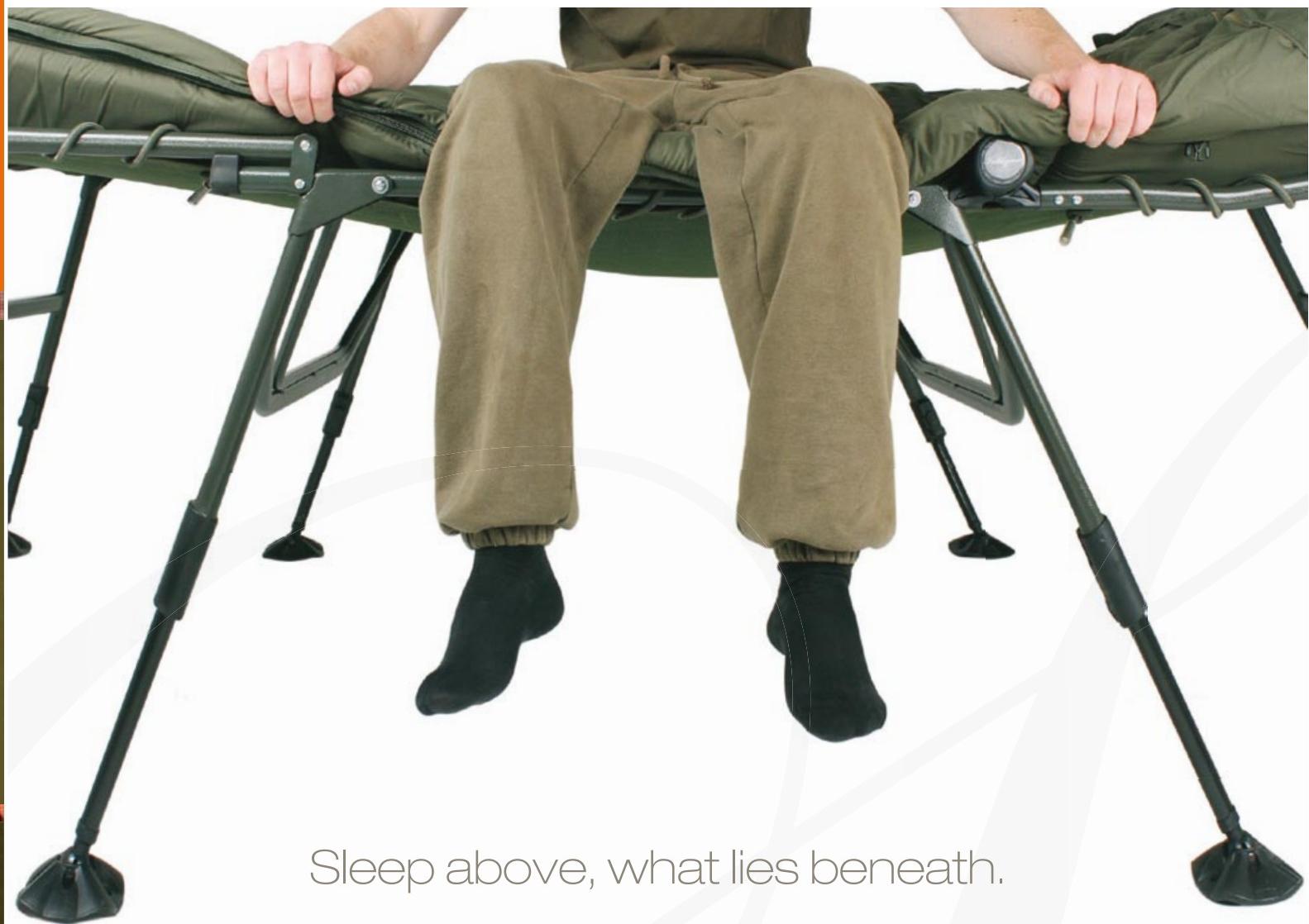
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We have 48 different big fish species from around the world, six different species exceed 100lb with fish over 400lb. Gillhams freshwater fishing lake holds at least 16 attainable IGFA world records. We have held the last two and hold the current IGFA world record Mekong catfish at 260lb, we also hold the current IGFA Chao Phraya world record, and have a claim pending for the new record fish at 121lb. Plus another pending record claim for the mrigal (Asian grass carp) at 17lb 6oz...

The top six lake monsters are: Amur pike 400lb, Chao Phraya catfish 300lb, Giant freshwater stingray 200lb, Mekong catfish 300lb, Siamese carp 160lb, wallago leeri 110lb. With many other big fish species from around the world several of which are rapidly approaching 100lb, making Gillhams Fishing Resorts the number one freshwater fishing destination in the world.

The fishing includes the use of two

Free Spirit 10ft 6lb Tc fishing rods per

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bait runner

long cast

reels or Penn

slammer free

spool reels.

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electronic bite

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supplied with a reasonable amount of free

bait per day 5kg of pellets, 1kg of maize

and ½ kg of sea fish dead baits additional

bait and boilie can be purchased at a

reasonable cost.

Our nine-acre fishing lake is set in an

infinity pool built to take in the amazing

views. The pool is situated near the

bungalows in our private gardens.

Krabi has been developed by the

Tourism Authority of Thailand as a

family destination, the resort is built in

a stunning national park area 3km from

Thalen Bay surrounded by lime-scale

karsts, covered in protected tropical rain

forest.

There is an endless list of activities and

you could spend a vacation here doing

different things every day, or you can just

laze around catching some of the biggest

freshwater fish in the world!

Overlooking the lake, for our guests'

private use, we have a large 7m x 15m

infinity pool built to take in the amazing

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Overlooking the lake, for our guests'



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Mainline Baits



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INSIGHT GR60X

After the long term success of GR60 which still holds a various number of records, the next generation of line has been launched GR60X, how could we make a line better that has such a reputation of being the best line available even better? Firstly we listened to some of the best anglers in the country who have a limited amount of time to fish, where their requirements for a line were to be able to compete with full time and sponsored anglers. The answers we got from these anglers were quite simple, colour, finish, sinking rate, reliability, abrasion resistant and knot strength.

The colours used were the same as GR60 but GR60X has a smooth matt anti reflective finish to stop the line from reflecting in the water making it less visible. Also it allows for the line to pass through the rod rings better resulting in extra distance to your cast.

Due to the type of structure in manufacturing of this line, GR60X has a better sinking rate than GR60, but does not hug the bottom like some fluorocarbons; this allows GR60X to lift up in the water when striking giving more of a positive strike, rather than like some fluorocarbons which are pulled through the water. While GR60X is more supple than GR60 it still has the same if not better abrasion resistance, knot strength and reliability. Available in either Matt Green or Matt Clear.

10lb Diameter 0.30mm Length 1408m

12lb Diameter 0.35mm Length 1033m

15lb Diameter 0.40mm Length 792m

£24.99



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INSIGHT GR60

Since the launch of GR60 it has accounted for five British carp records and two Barbel records. It is exclusively manufactured for INSIGHT using materials of the highest standard, its abrasion resistance is second to none giving the specialist angler the confidence and reliability he should expect from a main line. Used by famous such as Terry Hearn, Frank Warwick, Graham King and Ardy Veltkamp (Holland). Available in either Green or Clear.

INSIGHT GR60X REVIEWS

ASHLEY LARMAN

I have been a long term user of the phenomenal GR60 for around 15 years now and have total faith in its reliability so when I was asked by Ian and Kevin to try out a prototype line they had just received I was a little skeptical to say the least, how could the best line GR60 be improved upon I thought?

On first impressions GR60X appeared to look very similar to GR60 but it's not until you put it into use that you see how different they are.

When putting the GR60X line onto my reels it was noticeable how smooth, and straight it loaded onto my spools, no twist whatsoever. I loaded it in the same way I would GR60, with the spool on the floor, label up under a constant tension while turning my reel handle at a medium rate.

On using the line for the first time I could tell instantly that I could put a lead further with no extra effort, this helps no end as casting is not my forte and those few extra yards could bag some bonus carp. GR60X glides through the guides due to its fantastic line lay.

Both GR60X & GR60 sink very well but GR60X does

sink a little quicker and when it's down and settled it stays down, perfect for my style of fishing where slack lines are preferred the majority of the time. GR60X lies flat on the lake bed giving you perfect line presentation.

Its knot strength is not matched by anything else I have ever used before, it's that strong that you can almost tie a knot incorrectly and it will hold (not that I would recommend a badly tied knot).

The abrasive resistance is something I was a little worried about, would it be as impressive as GR60? YES, and more. From being wedged up behind a gravel bar to weeded up at least half a dozen times in one capture over a 15 minute period it did not fail me and on inspection there was no visible damage to the line, I found this amazing as the lines suppleness is so great that I would have expected a visible nick or two somewhere above the rig tubing.

After three 40lb + carp in a row, I think I've found my fishing line for the next 15 years.

GR60X is available in Green and Clear, both blend in with all fishing situations.

6lb Diameter 0.25mm Length 2028m
8lb Diameter 0.28mm Length 1614m
10lb Diameter 0.30mm Length 1408m
12lb Diameter 0.35mm Length 1033m
15lb Diameter 0.40mm Length 792m
18lb Diameter 0.45mm Length 628m

£19.50

STEVE CLIFF

Back in early spring 2011 I was asked by Kevin and Ian Crawley if I would use a new prototype line they had been working on for some time, I talked to them about it, and the claims were just what you would want to hear. The line had been developed upon the original GR60, which I had been using for many years due to its "bullet proof" reliability.

I loaded up my reels to notice a much smoother, limp feel to it, and a more subtle matt finish and smooth line lay. When I started to fish with it I was pleased with the way it was easy to get the line to sink down after casting.

Some of the venues I fish require a bit of range work, and this is where I noticed how the line flowed from the spool on casting, it made fishing at range more comfortable, even with sticks at over 100yds. As far as reliability is concerned, I have had good results this year from various venues that have been very weedy, and the line has done me proud, I have had some real battles along the way, and have suffered no "cut offs" or damage to the mainline, in fact it is now December and the same line is still on my reels after all the abuse it has been through! GR60X it just got better!

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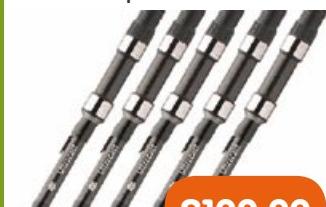


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HOW TO ENTER...

If you'd like the chance of winning a selection of Fox Edges hooklinks simply send an email to competitions@carptalkxtra.co.uk marking the subject line 'Fox Edges Giveaway'. One lucky winner will be chosen at random from entries received. The closing date for entries is Friday 8th November. The winner will be announced right here in Carp-Talk Xtra. Please don't forget to add your contact details, name, address, etc.

PREVIOUS WINNER

The lucky winner of the King of the Pond Giveaway from issue 323 is Mike Lightowler from Hull. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

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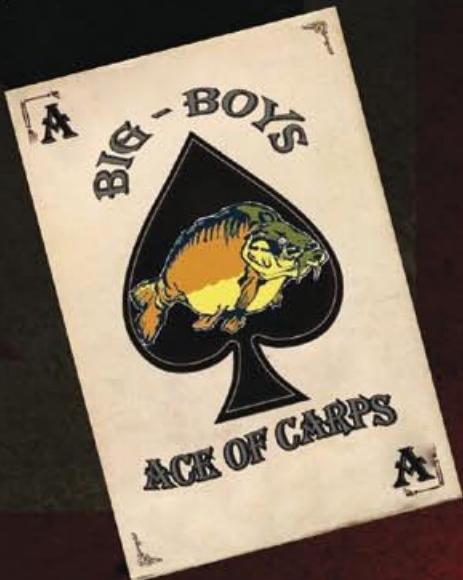
Solar Pop-Up Sticks available at Solar 24-7 - [CLICK HERE](#)

Check out this short video from Solar Tackle's You Tube channel, featuring Myles Gascoyne who explains this week's Carp-Talk Product of the Week – Solar Pop-Up Sticks.

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Phat Fish

Nic Burrage



Its catching on!

CARP TALK CATCHES



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NEWS IN CARP-
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1. Justin Shields, 38lb 9oz, Grenville Lake, RB1 hookbait.
2. Chris Martin, 36½lb, Fenland Fisheries' Willow Lake, Nashbait White Chocolate pop-up.
3. Chris Taylor, 29lb 14oz, Oakbank Lakes, Mainline Cell.
4. Gary Snaith, 30lb 6oz, A1 Pit 4, bread.
5. Gareth Birch, 37½lb, Combley Lakes, Azure boilies.
6. David Gaskin, 33lb 10oz, CMC Moore Equinox.
7. Steve Guy, 35lb, Mangrove Swamp, Mainline Essential Cell.
8. Duncan Arrandale, 33lb 2oz, Farriers Lake, Mistral Baits i40.

REPORT CATCH

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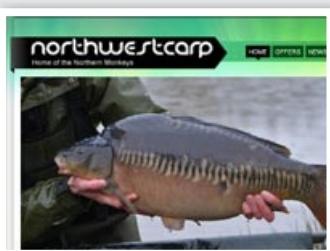
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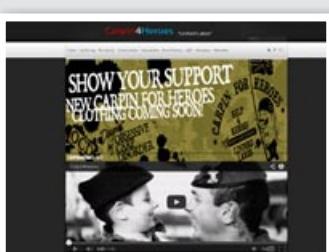
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Lee Swords – The Tidal Trent, a 'Land of Happy Accidents' - Lee talks about not catching anything on the tidal Trent can be a让人失望的 experience, yet very rewarding.

Lewis Baldwin – Not Enough Days in

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- Stephen Hincks - Technical Corner: Making Lure Leaders - Steve offers readers some invaluable and cost-effective help.
- Jorgen Larsson - Bring Some Colour into Your Life - Turn failure into success with some bright ideas from Jorgen.
- Richard Webb - Trolling Tricks - Richard looks at all the big and little things that make trolling work.
- Steve Fickling Predator

Years of the zander in Norfolk.

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The Ian Poole Experience

ANGLER PROFILE

IAN POOLE



Born: 1972
Hometown: Worcester
Favourite venue: Horseshoe Lake
Favourite method: Floater fishing

Most memorable catch: Surface capture of the Dustbin from Dinton Pastures



Carp in focus

Ian has tips on avoiding commonly encountered problems when taking trophy shots of your catch.

An old fishing mate I bumped into the other day mentioned that it had been at least a couple of years since I had written anything in *Carp-Talk* on the subject of photography. "Well that's because it's about carp angling and not cameras," I said. "Yeah, I know," he said, "but I can tie chod rigs and solid bags, but I still struggle at times to get decent photographs."

He went on to explain the sort of problems he was getting and, from what I've seen, the same couple of things crop up again and again; those issues being focusing and flash. There's no time like the present, I guess, so I thought I would have a 'photography month' and hopefully solve a few problems

along the way. When I've done this kind of feature in the past, I've often written about particular models I thought were suited as fishing cameras. However, these days there is so much good gear available that if you're willing to do a little research on the old Internet, it's actually harder to buy a bad camera than a good one.

The basics

Before I go on, I think it's worth emphasising that knowing enough about your camera to set it up correctly is vitally important. I know that user manuals for any piece of kit always look very boring and that in itself is enough to put many off, but if you want to get the best out of your camera, there are certain bits worth reading. For example,

just recently I know of an angler who shot several hundred pictures covering a whole season's worth of fishing only to find he'd set up the camera to save them at the lowest possible resolution. The bigger flash cards are so cheap to buy these days that, regardless of what I'm planning to do with the shots, I always have my camera set to shoot in the highest possible resolution. Okay, for the majority of time you might only view your pictures on a PC, but if you did want to order a big print to go on the wall or send off a picture of a biggie to *Carp-Talk*, you'll need those larger file sizes that shooting in high resolution will give you. Another advantage that isn't quite so obvious is the option of cropping an image heavily but

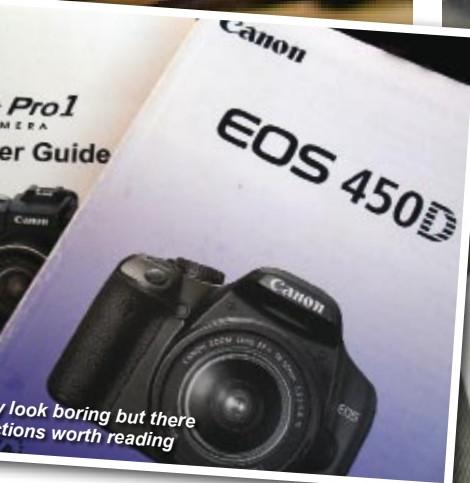
still ending up with a workable file; ideal if you end up with a few pictures where the person behind the camera didn't get in as close as you thought.

Which parts of your user manual are worth reading? Well, if all you are planning to do is click your camera on to full-auto mode and hope for the best, then not much. However, if you want to learn a little bit and give yourself a bit more control over the camera, then read up on how Program mode works. This mode does nearly everything for you but also gives you extra control over focusing and flash, the two things I mentioned at the beginning that cause the most headaches.



DIGIC
User manuals may
be one or two sec-

The beauty of digital photography is that your pictures can be reviewed immediately, but zoom right in to check sharpness



A sharper carp

These days the vast majority of cameras are fantastic pieces of equipment and good enough to get things right a very high percentage of the time. Even if your pictures occasionally come out a little bright or slightly too dark, this is an issue that can nearly always be adjusted

on the PC. However, if the focus is off there's not a great deal you can do about it. This is without doubt the cause of more disappointing pictures than any other and can easily be missed until you get home and upload the photos to your PC. Only then do you find that you and your prized capture are completely out of focus whilst the hedge behind is pin sharp.

Regardless of how expensive it is, in certain situations the autofocus system on any camera can be fooled into producing images where the focus point isn't quite where you want it. If you can identify those situations when a problem is likely to occur, there are a few things you can do to ensure your pictures come out sharp with the focus exactly where it needs to be. In sunny conditions I just let the camera get on with it as I know it's unlikely to make a mistake, but in low light or in the dark I am always a lot more careful and will quickly check a couple of images before the carp gets returned. I know it's

only right to get a carp back as quickly as you possibly can, but at the same time once you know what to look for it only takes seconds to ensure your pictures are okay, too.

The finer points

Now, I won't pretend that I am some kind of authority on the finer details of how the autofocus system on a camera works because I'm not. I just know enough to understand things from the point of view of how it could affect my photography. In order to achieve accurate autofocus a camera relies on contrast. When you press the shutter button halfway down, the camera is looking for something in the picture to lock on to, and this enables it to estimate the distance to the

subject. A good indication that your camera is struggling with the subject in the frame is when you hear the camera 'hunting' for a focus lock and you don't immediately hear the bleep telling you the camera is ready to take the shot – use this as a warning sign. Hearing the bleep means one of the camera's focus points should now be locked on the subject. However, the smooth shiny flanks of a carp have little in the way of contrast for the camera to pick up on, so if one of the outer focus points detects something with more contrast in the background, you and your carp are going to be way out of focus. Unfortunately, a further problem is that the camera will nearly always meter for the object in focus. This means the foreground subject (captor with fish) is likely to be overexposed as well. This is something you should look out for when checking your pictures. When checking for focus issues the full frame of the shot on the LCD screens found on most cameras can be a bit misleading, so I use the zoom to go in as close as I can. The carp's eye is the best part of the frame to check for any problems.

To avoid potential focusing problems in awkward light I set the camera to use the centre focus point only – it's really easy to do. With the camera in full-auto mode, all of the focus points will be working and I won't have any say whatsoever over which of them locks onto the subject. On most cameras, switching to program mode opens up all the options you are ever likely to need and one of them will enable more control over the focusing. As I mentioned, the default setting is for all of the focus points to be working, but there should be an option to select them individually. At the same time this automatically disables the others. Also, a further advantage is that on most cameras the centre focus point is more sensitive than the outer ones. Providing the centre point is on the fish, a sharp image should be achieved because you have made it impossible for the camera to focus on the background.



Program mode is worth learning about if you want to get the best results in all kind of conditions



A diffuser helps to give an even flash exposure across the frame and eliminate reflections on the fish – and with fill-in flash it can work well in the day, too



Buy a large enough flash card so you can always shoot in hi-res – one day you'll be glad you did

The Ian Poole Experience



In auto mode the camera decides what focus point to use – it works for the majority of time but can be tripped up

Shedding some light

For many of us, mastering flash photography can be one of the biggest challenges of all, and it's something that an increasing number of anglers have had to do in recent years. Sack bans are now in place on many venues around the UK and, even if they aren't, on many occasions the time between a capture and first light is too long to consider retaining the fish. Provided I can do it safely, I have no problems with sacking a carp for a couple of hours or so, but this has been irrelevant as none of the waters I've fished recently allow sacks.

In the past I have really struggled with my night-time shots and eventually found a change of camera did the trick. Since 2005 I've used a Canon Eos 350D for fishing and in the dark always had to work hard to get decent pictures. I tried all the proven tricks like ensuring there was some kind of solid background behind the fish to help the light from the flash bounce around. However, if I left the camera in auto it resulted in pictures that were horribly underexposed and needed lots of work in Photoshop to bring back. An additional flashgun didn't make a difference either, and it was only when I bought a newer model last year that I suddenly realise how poor my old camera's flash metering system was.

At the other end of the scale, another common occurrence at night is when the flash almost seems too powerful and you end up with a fish that's either completely washed-out or covered in reflections from the flash. Compacts are particularly prone to this because the flash comes from such a concentrated area. One easy way to eliminate this entirely is to angle the fish very slightly so the light bounces away from the camera rather than directly back at it. If you use an additional flashgun you can achieve the same by fitting



I prefer to switch to the centre focus point only – on most cameras this is the strongest focus point and should ensure sharp pictures every time



a diffuser, an inexpensive piece of kit that will also give you really even flash exposure right across the frame. Some of the newer models already come fitted with an optional diffuser you can slide out and clip over the flash, but if yours doesn't they are easy to find and give excellent results.

A pin-sharp fish and background thrown slightly out of focus results in the perfect shot

Where the fish gets washed out completely, an easy solution is to simply increase the distance between the subject and camera. When you turn on most compacts, the lens is nearly always set at its widest angle, and this means you need to get in really close (often too close) to fill the frame. It's the root cause of the 'wide-angle

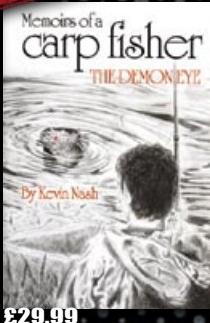
wonder' shot where a 15-pounder can look at least 10lb larger, and it can often cause the flash to burn out the flanks of a fish to such an extent that you wouldn't be able to get the detail back. Moving the photographer back a couple of feet can make all the difference and ensure the flash gives an even exposure right across the picture rather than being concentrated in the middle. You can always crop any excess background when back at home. Remember how I said that always shooting at full resolution will come in handy? Well, this is one of those situations.

Unfortunately, that's just about it for now as I've run out of space. I hope the feature has been of use to one or two people and if I get enough positive feedback then perhaps I'll do something else next year. I know a lot of anglers struggle to get to grips with self-take photography so that's always a possibility.

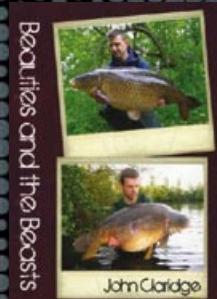


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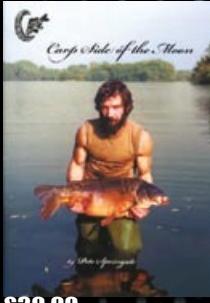
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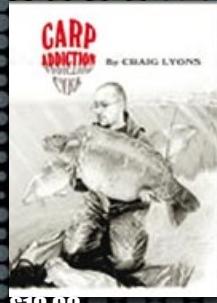
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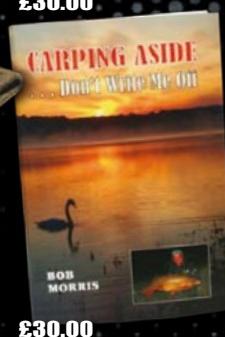
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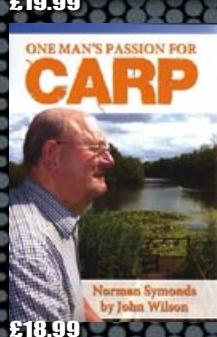
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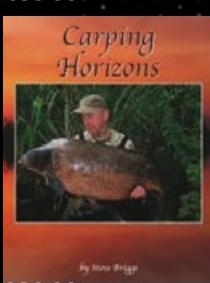
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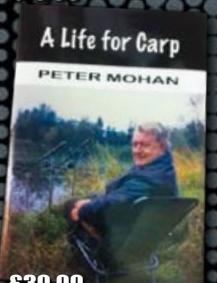
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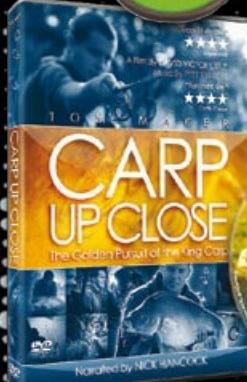
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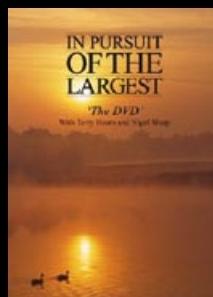
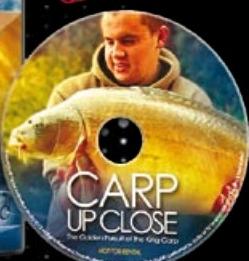


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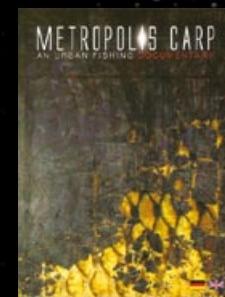
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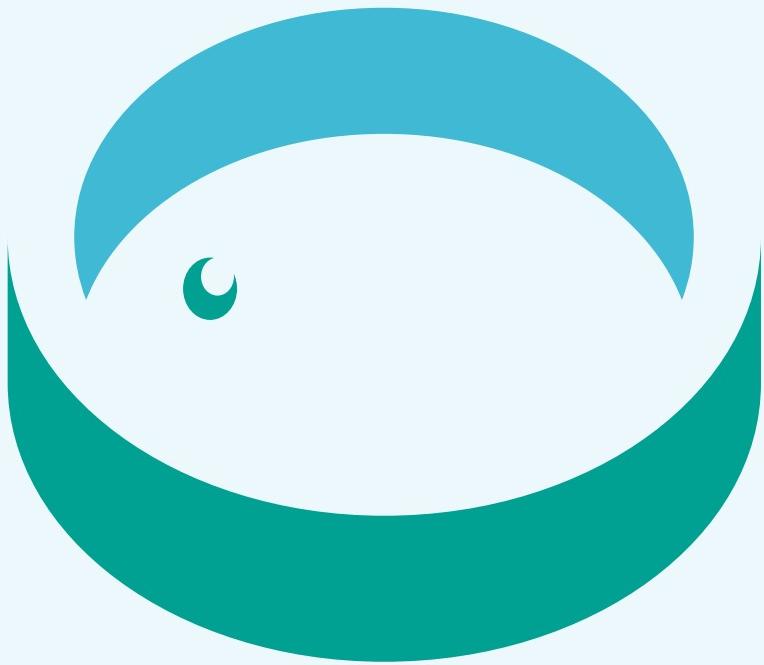
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